

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Korean Labor Party Membership	DATE DISTR.	11 March 1954
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Recruitment

1. In North Korea the recruiting of Labor Party members was conducted through the various social organizations, particularly through workers alliances, since industrial workers were the targets of the greatest recruiting efforts. Names of potential party members were usually obtained through recommendations by responsible social organization members or through an individual's personal application. A recruit had to be sponsored by at least two party members who had not less than one year's party membership, and his name had to be approved by the chief of his social organization. The recruit was then investigated by the county or city Investigation Committee which was composed of the Party Committee chief, deputy chief, and Organization Bureau chief. If the name was approved, it was forwarded to the provincial Investigation Committee, composed of the province party chief, deputy chief, and Organization Bureau chief. Upon approval, the provincial Certification Section published the name and issued the party membership card. Party members were selected on the basis of their social position, i.e. if they were poor farmers or members of the working class; their knowledge of Marxism, Leninism, and Stalinism; their conduct and work within their social organization; and their relatives, i.e. if there were no anti-Communists among their relatives. Expelled party members could regain their membership only by starting anew and going through the recruiting process as a nonmember.
2. The degree of investigation differed in individual cases. The prospective member appeared before the Investigation Committee for a hearing. The sponsors' signatures were presented, but the sponsors did not have to appear at the hearing. A probationary period was occasionally imposed if the position to be assumed in the party was an important one.

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Labor Party Membership Certificate

3. The Labor Party membership certificate issued to each member was hung around the neck in a leather case. The certificate was about three by four inches in size, and consisted of several pages. The first page which was dark blue contained the slogan, in black, "Unite, Laborers of Korea." Below the slogan, in Korean writing, was the title "Party Membership Certificate." The second page contained the name, age, birthplace, and organization of the member, as well as a photograph in the lower left corner, with the seal of the office to which the individual was assigned. The remaining pages were lined for recording payment of party dues.
4. Party members were impressed with the importance of the certificate and were told that the certificate was the symbol of life. Loss of the certificate usually resulted in dismissal from the party. The certificate was used as an identification card only at cell meetings. The only other time it was used was when payment of dues was recorded.

Sociological Composition of the Labor Party

5. About 15 percent of the Labor Party members were women. The percentage of Labor Party membership within various age groups was:

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
18-30	50
31-40	25
41-50	15
Over 50	10

6. Membership in the party by occupation was divided into approximately the following percentages:

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Industrial workers, skilled and unskilled	15
Office workers	5
Government executives, including gun officials	5
Government workers, including township officials	10
Armed forces personnel	20
Teachers	5
Scientists	2
Writers and artists	2
Agricultural workers	5
Small farmers	20
Students	4
Shopkeepers and tradesmen	2
Full-time party workers	5

7. The majority of the Labor Party members were in P'yongyang. Among the Labor Party members about 20 percent were entirely loyal, die-hard members. This group included the majority of the government executives, full-time party workers, and armed forces personnel. About 50 percent of the members were opportunists, most of whom were over the age of 30 and had had experience under other than Communistic regimes.

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